

# LIBRARY BOARD BULLETIN

Montgomery County  
Library Board

Volume 2, Issue 1  
December 2011

## Mission

To advise the County Executive, County Council and Library Director on matters affecting the public library system including the acquisition and location of new library facilities and the adequacy of book collections and personnel needs.

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I would like to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not met. My name is Jill Lewis, and I became Chair of the Library Board in June, 2011 after serving as the Vice Chair and Chair of the Board and LAC Activities Committee. I am the Board liaison to the Davis branch and the Disability Resource Center, and have been a librarian for over twenty years. My day job is Director of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Baltimore. It is an honor to be Board Chair and to have the opportunity to be part an outstanding group of dedicated volunteers.

This past summer Vice Chair

Otto Lewis and I wrote a Work Plan which will serve as the Board's guideline for this season's activities. The plan is also a way to tell the community about Board goals, objectives, and activities.

In addition to the annual legislative activities, the Plan includes ways that the Board will work with LACs to recruit and grow their groups. We will invite LAC Chairs to Board meetings, create an LAC mentoring process, share hints of successful LAC activities, and invite Council members to your branches. Board members will mentor incoming Board members so that they are able to be successful

liaisons to your LAC groups.

The Board will alert you to hearings and forums and prepare talking points for your letters and testimonies. We invite you to join us in coming activities such as Library Legislative Day in Annapolis, ALA Day in DC, the County Council public budget hearings, and the annual Board/LAC meeting in spring 2012.

Otto Lewis and I will be visiting LAC meetings to introduce ourselves and hear your plans, concerns, and needs. I look forward to working with you and to a successful, productive season.

## Inside this issue:

### Mission Statement

President's Welcome 1

Board News 1

Board Awards June 2011 1

LAC Happenings 2

Award Application 2

MCPL News 3

LAC Questions 4

Letters to the Editor 4

Calendar of Events 4

## Awards June 2011

The 2011 LAC Achievement awards recognize and honor projects, activities and/or special achievements of our LACs. In 2011 the Board presented two awards, the Eleanor Ablard award and the Member(s) of the Year Award.

The Eleanor Ablard Award is presented to the LAC with the most effective program linking the LAC, the library and its community of users. This year, the Ablard Award went to the Silver Spring Library LAC chaired by Kathlin Smith.

The award recognized Silver Spring's active community engagement and outreach program. The LAC brought the community and the library together over issues such as the fate of the pedestrian bridge for the

new library. Members appeared at such events as the Fenton Street Market, the Chamber of Commerce breakfasts, the Thanksgiving Day Parade, and Ms. Maryland Wheelchair Day. They put together a postcard campaign addressed to then-Council President Nancy Floreen in support of the bridge. More than 1,000 postcards were mailed. At the Parade, LAC members handed out "build the bridge" yellow construction hats and literature on the bridge issue.

The Member(s) of the Year Award is presented to a member, members, or an LAC in recognition of their work during the year. The 2011 Member of the Year Award turned out to be a tie between the Quince Orchard LAC (Syed Amir) and

Kathleen Wiacek and Nancy Lacy of the Damascus LAC. The Quince Orchard LAC was honored in recognition of its carefully planned comprehensive strategy to publicize the budget crisis of the libraries. Members prepared flyers and cards for display. They came up with a slogan of "RESTORE LIBRARY FUNDING!" They placed a poster in the Quince Orchard Library asking community members to sign cards to be delivered to the County Executive. They took turns standing in the library lobby and talking with customers, educating them about the budget in general and the library budget in particular, urging them to contact legislators and fill out cards.

Cont'd, Page 2

## Board News

### Budget

Ongoing meeting with County Council members: dates to be announced.

Talking Points will be ready in early January

### LACs

Visit our website for:  
Board Liaisons  
LAC Chairs  
LAC Recruitment  
brochure

## LAC HAPPENINGS



Snapshot Day 2011

### APRIL 1 AWARD APPLICATIONS DUE

This is the time for ALL LACs to seize the opportunity to submit their award applications for special recognition of achievements and our beautiful glass trophy suitable for display at the Branch represented by the LAC. The application package is on the website.

#### Damascus LAC: Everybody Loves a Mystery!

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the sweetest and most romantic holiday of the year, the Damascus Chapter of the Friends of the Library celebrates Library Lovers' Month by again presenting Mystery in the Stacks.

This winter's event, to be held on February 4, is titled "An Evening of Chocolate," written by Nancy Lacy, member of the LAC. She has copyrighted her plays and has offered them to other libraries at no charge. It will be a sweet treat of goodies, mystery, and love...of a good time. Sue Ketchum, local caterer, will create light hors d'oeuvres and desserts that feature chocolate. Forty five guests will compete for the romantic grand prize, awarded to the guest who gives the most correct answers in the shortest amount of time.

Tickets at only \$5.00 per person will be on sale before the end of December and make great stocking stuffers. So reserve a place in the heart of Damascus to celebrate Valentine's Day. For more information, and to make reservations, call the library at 240 773-9444.

Frank Riccardi, Board Liaison

#### Volunteer Appreciation Open House at Quince Orchard Library

I attended the Volunteer Appreciation Open House function at the Quince Orchard Library at the invitation of the LAC on October 27, 2011. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library and hosted by library staff. The guests were treated to some light refreshments.

It was a joyous, informal occasion with plenty of opportunities to meet and greet people. Some twenty to twenty-five people attended, most of them volunteers who had participated in the very vibrant volunteer program of the library. Over a hundred volunteers, I was informed, have signed up and are on the books to help and participate in various volunteer activities.

The projects included English conversational classes, designed for those needing fluency in conversational language, book sales, and helping library staff at special events. The Library manager, Ann Stillman, formally welcomed and thanked the attendees, especially those who had served as volunteers during the past year. Each volunteer was presented with a free book of his/her choice. The Open House ended at around 7 pm. Syed Amir - Board Liaison

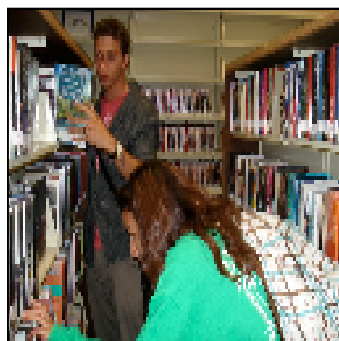
#### DRC LAC

The Disability Resource Center LAC met on Saturday, November 19th. A focus of the meeting was raising awareness of the LAC in the branches and community. Suggestions include DRC LAC brochures and flyers at branches, DRC LAC members attending LAC/FOL meetings to answer questions and provide information, ensuring a good LAC presence on Snapshot Day, and ensuring that DRC information is included in packets to Council members. The DRC will also publicize partnerships or activities countywide.

A second focus was an upcoming summit on library services for individuals with disabilities in Montgomery County. The summit is scheduled for spring 2012, and discussion centered on dates, set up and speakers. A goal of the summit is to create a vision, a mission statement and a strategic plan. A final report produced after the summit will be widely disseminated in the library and disability communities.

Jill Lewis, Board Liaison

## Awards June 2011, cont'd from Page 1



Snapshot Day 2011

As of March 2011, they had delivered more than 2,000 postcards to Mr. Leggett's office. They invited neighboring LACs to work with them and set up meetings with council members and attended every public meeting.

Kathleen and Nancy were recognized for their leadership role in major projects for the Damascus Library. They wrote and directed Mystery in the Stacks, a series of

interactive mysteries created specifically for libraries. Kathleen and Nancy also took the lead in organizing the branch's 20th anniversary celebration on October 2, 2010, coordinating the celebration with the other facilities in the complex, handling all public relations, notifying the media, creating a press release and flyer, and, posting the flyers all over town, creating a schedule of events and booking all performers including the Step

Team from the Senior Center, the Brownsville Cornet Band and performers from the Damascus Theatre Company.

## MCPL NEWS

### County to Provide Kiosk Library Service to Olney Community During Remainder of Renovation Period for Regular Library

To ensure that the Olney community would have convenient access to some form of partial library services during the remainder of the renovation period for the Olney Library, County Executive Ike Leggett last month directed Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) to explore options for creating such a service.

In response, MCPL has collaborated with the Department of Recreation and the Department of General Services (DGS) on a kiosk library that would provide the following services: circulation of current titles for both children and adults in a book vending machine; circulation

of media (DVDs, potentially CDs) in a media vending machine; pick-up of customer holds in a materials locker system; and drop-off of library materials via an internal book drop.

MCPL and the Department of Recreation have identified the Longwood Recreation Center, 19300 Georgia Ave. in Brookeville, as the best location for the library kiosk. The advantages of the Longwood site are:

- A safe indoor location monitored by County staff.
- Plentiful parking.
- An ADA accessible facility.
- Sufficient space for the library system to provide materials for checkout, holds fulfillment and the return of Library materials.

"I appreciate the effort and thought put forth by Libraries, General Services and Recreation when I asked that they find a way to provide interim library services for the Olney community while their library is being renovated," County Executive Leggett said.

"Recognizing the importance of the Olney Library to that community, and the inconvenience to residents of being without library services for the duration of the renovation, the Executive asked us to find a solution," said MCPL Director Parker Hamilton. "Thanks to the cooperation of our partners, DGS and Recreation, we have come up with what we feel to be a solution that will benefit the community by providing limited-but-basic, interim services."

MCPL estimates that completing the required procurement processes, then staging and installing the related equipment, will be accomplished in the first quarter of calendar year 2012.

[For more information about the Olney project, and to see updates on the Olney interim service project, visit the Olney Library page.](#)

### Community Kickoff of Construction for Gaithersburg Library Renovation to be Held December 18

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and the Department of General Services (DGS) announced the official start of construction on the Gaithersburg Library renovation project at a community event on Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the library site, 18330 Montgomery Village Ave.

The following day, the County provided the contractor, Henley Construction Company, Inc. of Gaithersburg, notice to proceed with construction.

MCPL Director Parker Hamilton and DGS Director David Dise spoke briefly and also talked with residents one-on-one about the project. Upcounty Regional Services Center Director Cathy

Mathews served as emcee.

The major renovation project will expand the 33,700 square-foot structure by adding 22,200 square feet on the main level along the front, back, and sides and 7,900 square feet on a partial second floor that will hold the meeting rooms, mechanical rooms, storage and a satellite office of the Gilchrist Center.

For information on the remaining schedule for the project and to see updates as the project progresses, visit the Building Projects link on the MCPL website, [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library) or the Neighborhood Projects page on the DGS website.



**Snapshot Day 2011**



## Montgomery County Library Board

21 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 310  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
[Libraryboard@Montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Libraryboard@Montgomerycountymd.gov)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you. You may not be able to attend meetings or participate in events but you have ideas or opinions. We reserve the right to publish your comments. Submission implies permission to publish.

### LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

**Dr. Syed Amir**

**Mr. Art Brodsky, Immediate Past Chair**

**Ms. Andrea Christman**

**Ms. Jeanette Cotter**

**Ms. Paulette Dickerson**

**Ms. Gillian Lewis, Chair**

**Mr. Otto Lewis, Jr., Vice Chair**

**Dr. Lois Neuman**

**Dr. J. Sri Ram**

**Mr. Frank Riccardi**

**Ms. Robyn Watts**

## LAC QUESTIONS

A theme that frequently emerges is confusion about fundraising activities, such as book sales, and how the LACs fit into fundraising.

Clearly, selected events require funding but technically, the LACs do not fundraise. By law, the Board and LACs advise the Director of Libraries and advocate on behalf of the library branch and system.

Since most, if not all of our LAC members, wear both hats of LAC (public sector) and FOL foundation (private sector), sometimes business is conducted on behalf of both groups at one meeting. Members discuss fundraising and vote on appropriate FOL business, and these items are sometimes reported as a part of the LAC minutes.

To assist in defining and refining activities of LACs and to retain the spirit of enthusiastic volunteerism, the procedure implemented years ago remains relevant – organize two separate agendas and minutes and conduct business accordingly. Some LACs already do this.

To help in defining LAC business, the following is a sample list.

Facilities – renovations, relocation, maintenance, lighting, restrooms, safety, supplies, signage, computer/technology, access, hours, use of space, decoration, temperature, cleanliness, furniture

Collection – availability, reserve, condition of materials, choices, timeliness

Staff – services, responsiveness

Customer Satisfaction – all items on the survey, concerns related to budget cuts, e.g. long wait at checkout lines

Landscaping – grass cutting

Programs – plan, implementation details, evaluation, recommendations

Volunteers – roles and responsibilities

Thanks to those of you who brought this to our attention. (Refer to the section on Meetings and Minutes in the revised LAC Handbook.)

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

November Joint meeting Library Board/LACs/FOL

December 1 Brainstorming Meeting

January-May Budget meetings with elected officials, council member visits to the branches January - March

April 1 LAC Award Submission Date

June Award Ceremony